AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (previously presented) A computer system, comprising:

a chassis;

a processor;

a hard drive securing mechanism, the hard drive securing mechanism being operable to secure a plurality of hard drives to the chassis with a rotatable lever, the rotatable lever having a tapered guide configured to receive and secure a protruding member of a hard drive, wherein the tapered guide is further configured to rotate about the protruding member; and

at least one hard drive secured by the hard drive securing mechanism.

2. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein each hard drive includes a plurality of protruding members, further wherein the hard drive securing mechanism is operable to secure the plurality of hard drives by restricting the movement of the plurality of protruding members.

3. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, the hard drive securing mechanism further comprising:

a plurality of guides secured to the chassis to restrict the movement of a plurality of protruding members; and

a hard drive carrier,

wherein the rotatable lever includes a plurality of tapered guides, each tapered guide being configured to receive and secure a protruding member.

4. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein a first hard drive is securable between the rotatable lever and a first set of guides.

5. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein each tapered guide is configured to receive the protruding member when the rotatable lever is in a first position, further wherein, each tapered guide is configured to prevent movement of the protruding member when the rotatable lever is in a second position.

6. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the rotatable lever includes a protrusion biased by a flexible member, further wherein the protrusion is captured when the ~~securing~~ rotatable lever is disposed in the second position.

7. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 4, wherein a second hard drive is securable between the hard drive carrier and a second set of guides.

8. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the rotatable lever is operable to drive the carrier towards the second set of guides.

9. (original) The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the rotatable lever comprises a cam configured for sliding engagement with the carrier.

10. (original) The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a spring, wherein the spring is compressed as the rotatable lever is rotated in a first direction, further wherein the spring biases the carrier towards the rotatable lever when the rotatable lever is rotated in a second direction.

11. (original) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the rotatable lever comprises a tab for operating the rotatable lever.

12. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the rotatable lever comprises a stop that engages a surface on the carrier to prevent rotation of the rotatable lever past the first position as the rotatable lever is rotated in the second direction.

13. (original) The system as recited in claim 12, comprising a moveable obstruction disposable over the rotatable lever, wherein when the moveable obstruction is disposed over the rotatable lever, the moveable obstruction prevents the rotatable lever from rotating from the second position to the first position, and further wherein, when the rotatable lever is disposed in the first position, the rotatable lever prevents the moveable obstruction from being disposed over the rotatable lever.

14. (previously presented) A hard drive securing system, comprising:

a plurality of guides secured to a chassis;

a hard drive carrier held by a first plurality of guides and configured to support a plurality of hard drives; and

a securing lever mechanism operable to secure the plurality of hard drives to the hard drive carrier, wherein the securing lever mechanism is configured with a cam to drive the hard drive carrier as the securing lever mechanism is rotated from a first position to a second position.

15. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the securing lever mechanism has a guide portion configured to receive a portion of a hard drive when the securing lever mechanism is in the first position.

16. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein a first hard drive is secured when the securing lever mechanism is rotated to the second position.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the securing lever mechanism comprises a latch to secure the securing lever mechanism when the securing lever mechanism is in the second position.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 18, comprising a spring, wherein the spring opposes movement of the hard drive carrier produced by the securing lever mechanism and drives the carrier as the securing lever mechanism is rotated from the first position to the second position.

21. (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the hard drive carrier is configured to secure a second hard drive against a second plurality of guides when the securing lever mechanism is in the second position.

22. (currently amended) A method of securing a plurality of hard drives to a computer chassis, comprising:

disposing a first hard drive between a first restraint and a securing lever by rotating the first hard drive into position between the first restraint and the securing lever;

deploying a second hard drive between a second restraint and a carrier configured to direct the movement of the second hard drive; and

rotating the securing lever to simultaneously secure the first hard drive by the first restraint and the securing lever and the second hard drive by the carrier and the second restraint.

23. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

providing each hard drive with a plurality of protruding members.

24. (original) The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

configuring the securing lever with a tapered guide to receive a first plurality of protruding members in a first position of the securing lever and to restrict movement of the first plurality of protruding members in a second position of the securing lever.

25. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

configuring the securing lever with a cam surface to drive the carrier in a first direction as the securing lever is rotated from a first position to a second position.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

providing the chassis with a spring mechanism configured to oppose the movement of the carrier by the securing lever; and

using the spring mechanism to bias the carrier against the securing lever as the securing lever is rotated from the second position to the first position.

27. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:

forming the restraints by cutting and bending a portion of the chassis to form a plurality of tabs, each tab configured to restrict the movement of a protruding member.

28. (currently amended) A rotatable lever for securing a hard drive, having a plurality of protruding members, to a chassis, comprising:

a plurality of guides, each guide being configured to receive a protruding member when the ~~securing~~ rotatable lever is in a first position and to restrict the protruding member when the ~~securing~~ rotatable lever is in a second position different from the first position.

29. (original) The rotatable lever as recited in claim 28, further comprising:

a first portion including at least one of the plurality of guides;

a second portion including at least a second of the plurality of guides and an operator; and

a connector, connecting the first and second portions.

30. (original) The rotatable lever as recited in claim 29, wherein the first portion and second portion include a cam surface.

31. (original) The rotatable lever as recited in claim 30, wherein each guide is tapered.

32. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein the hard drive securing mechanism is disposed inside the chassis.

33. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the securing lever mechanism is configured to move inside the chassis.

34. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein rotating the securing lever comprises rotating the securing lever inside the computer chassis.

35. (previously presented) The rotatable lever as recited in claim 28, wherein the rotatable lever is configured to rotate inside the chassis.